

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing text-to-audio conversion of an electronic book displayed on a viewer, the method comprising:

~~selecting~~ receiving a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center;

providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

displaying a page of the selected electronic book on the viewer, the page including text, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer;

receiving a selection of text on the displayed page to be provided in audio; and

providing at least a portion of the selected text in corresponding audio.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including pausing the audio corresponding to the text.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further including resuming the audio corresponding to the text.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including providing a definition, in audio form, of a word selected by a user within the text.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including permitting a user to adjust a rate of the audio corresponding to the text.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including permitting a user to select a particular type of voice for the audio corresponding to the text.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing text-to-audio conversion of an electronic book displayed on a viewer, the method comprising:

selecting receiving a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center;

providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

displaying a page of the selected electronic book on the viewer, the page including text, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer;

receiving information relating to an audio function of the electronic book;

providing at least of a portion the text on the displayed page into corresponding audio based upon the information; and

automatically displaying a next page of the electronic book and converting at least a portion of text on the next page into corresponding audio.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further including pausing the audio corresponding to the text.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further including resuming the audio corresponding to the text.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for providing text-to-audio conversion of an electronic book displayed on a viewer, the method comprising:

selecting receiving a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center;

providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

displaying a page of the selected electronic book on the viewer, the page including text; text, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer;

receiving information relating to an audio function of the electronic book;
providing at least of a portion the text on the displayed page into corresponding audio based upon the information; and

automatically converting at least a portion of text into corresponding audio on another page of the electronic book upon receiving a selection of another page.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further including pausing the audio corresponding to the text.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further including resuming the audio corresponding to the text.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for receiving commands for executing functions related to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer;

receiving an audible command relating to a function of the electronic book;

converting the audible command into a corresponding electronic signal; and

executing the function in response to the electronic signal.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the receiving step includes receiving a turn page command.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the receiving step includes receiving an open book command.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, further including displaying an indication of available audible commands.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for performing dictation into an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer;
providing a text insertion cursor for designating a text insertion point; receiving speech from a user;
converting the speech into corresponding electronic text;
displaying the text on the viewer; and
inserting the text into the electronic book.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the inserting step includes inserting the text into the electronic book at a location identified by the user using the cursor.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for restricting access to an electronic book for display on a viewer, comprising:

storing an electronic book for display on a viewer;
receiving an audible command from a user relating to a function of the electronic book;
converting the audible command into a corresponding electronic signal; and
providing authorization to execute commands from the user relating to the electronic book only if the electronic signal satisfies particular criteria.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the displaying step includes comparing the electronic signal to a stored electronic signal relating to the user.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing text-to-audio conversion of an electronic book displayed on a viewer, the apparatus comprising:

a first selection module that ~~selects~~ receives a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center and provides the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

a display that displays a page of the selected electronic book on the viewer, the page including text, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer;

a second selection module that receives a selection of text on the displayed page for the conversion to audio; and

an audio module that provides at least a portion of the selected text into corresponding audio.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further including a pause module that pauses the audio corresponding to the text.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, further including a resume module that resumes the audio corresponding to the text.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further including a dictionary module that provides a definition, in audio form, of a word selected by a user within the text.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further including a rate module that permits a user to adjust a rate of the audio corresponding to the text.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further including a voice options module that permits a user to select a particular type of voice for the audio corresponding to the text.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing text-to-audio conversion of an electronic book displayed on a viewer, the apparatus comprising:

a first selection module that ~~selects~~ receives a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center and provides the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

a display that displays a page of the selected electronic book on a viewer, the page including text, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer;

a second selection module that receives information relating to an audio function of the electronic book;

an audio module that provides at least a portion the text on the displayed page into corresponding audio based upon the information; and

a module that automatically displays a next page of the electronic book; wherein the audio module automatically provides at least a portion of text on the next page into corresponding audio.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further including a pause module that pauses the audio corresponding to the text.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further including a resume module that resumes the audio corresponding to the text.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing text-to-audio conversion of an electronic book displayed on a viewer, the apparatus comprising:

a first selection module that ~~selects~~ receives a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available books stored in an operation center and provides the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

a display that displays a page of the selected electronic book on a viewer, the page including text, wherein the operation center and the list of available books is remote from the viewer;

a receive module that receives information relating to an audio function of the electronic book;

an audio module that provides at least of a portion the text on the displayed page into corresponding audio based upon the information; and

a module that automatically provides at least a portion of text on another page of the electronic book into corresponding audio, upon receiving a selection of another page.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, further including a pause module that pauses the audio corresponding to the text.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further including a resume module that resumes the audio corresponding to the text.

35. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for receiving commands for executing functions related to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

a display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer;

a receive module that receives an audible command relating to a function of the electronic book;

a conversion module that converts the audible command into a corresponding electronic signal; and

an execute module that executes the function in response to the electronic signal.

36. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the receive module includes a page turn module that receives a turn page command.

37. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the receive module includes an open book module that receives an open book command.

38. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35, further including a display commands module that displays an indication of available audible commands.

39. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for performing dictation into an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- a display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer;

- a receive module that receives speech from a user;

- a commands module that converts the speech into corresponding electronic text;

and

- an insertion module that inserts the text into the electronic book.

40. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the insertion module includes an insertion point module that inserts the text into the electronic book at a location identified by the user.

41. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for restricting access to an electronic book for display on a viewer, comprising:

- a store module that stores an electronic book for display on a viewer;

- a receive module that receives an audible command from a user relating to a function of the electronic book;

- a conversion module that converts the audible command into a corresponding electronic signal; and

an authorization module that provides authorization to execute commands from the user relating to the electronic book only if the electronic signal satisfies particular criteria.

42. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a display module, wherein the display module includes a compare module that compares the electronic signal to a stored electronic signal relating to the user.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to request a text-to-audio function, the method comprising:

displaying a screen on a viewer;

selecting receiving a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center on the screen;

providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

displaying within the screen a page of the selected electronic book, the page including text, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer;

permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the text displayed within the screen; and

displaying a section within the screen for permitting the user to request a text-to audio conversion of the identified text.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further including displaying a section for permitting a user to request a definition, in audio form, of a word identified in the text.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further including displaying a section for permitting a user to request that the text-to-audio conversion be paused.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further including displaying a section for permitting a user to request that the text-to-audio conversion be resumed.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising displaying an image on the screen after the text-to-audio conversion begins.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the image is one of a JPEG file and a MPEG 2 file.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising adjusting a rate of text-to-audio conversion based on a command received by the user.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising: converting an electronic book menu system text to audio; providing menu navigation prompts as audible signals; and receiving audible commands from the user based on the received prompts.

51. (Currently Amended) A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to request a text-to-audio function, comprising:

a first section within the screen for selecting receiving a selection of an electronic book for viewing from a list of available electronic books stored in an operations center and providing the selected electronic book from the operations center to the viewer;

a second section within the screen for displaying a page of the selected electronic book, the page including text and the section permitting a user to identify at

least a portion of the text displayed within the screen, wherein the operations center is remote from the viewer; and

a third section within the screen for permitting the user to request a text-to- audio conversion of the identified text.

52. (Previously Presented) The screen of claim 51, further including
a fourth section within the screen for permitting a user to request a definition, in audio form, of a word identified in the text.

53. (Previously Presented) The screen of claim 51, further including
a fifth section within the screen for permitting a user to request that the text-to- audio conversion be paused.

54. (Previously Presented) The screen of claim 53, further including
a sixth section within the screen for permitting a user to request that the text-to- audio conversion be resumed.

55. (Withdrawn) A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to request a speech-to-text function, comprising:
displaying a screen on a viewer;
displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book; and
displaying a section within the screen for permitting a user to request a speech-to-text conversion for insertion of text into the displayed page of the electronic book.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55, further including displaying a section within the screen for the user to request an end to the speech-to-text conversion.

57. (Withdrawn) A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to request a speech-to-text function, comprising:

a screen for display on a viewer;

a section within the screen for displaying a page of an electronic book; and

a begin dictation section within the screen for permitting a user to request a speech-to-text conversion for insertion of text into the displayed page of the electronic book.

58. (Withdrawn) The screen of claim 57, further including an end dictation section within the screen for the user to request an end to the speech-to-text conversion.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio corresponding to the text is provided by real-time speech conversion.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio corresponding to the text is provided by accessing an audio file corresponding to the selected text.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the audio corresponding to the text is provided by real-time speech conversion.

62. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the audio corresponding to the text is provided by accessing an audio file corresponding to the selected text.